

CHAPTER 8

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MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION SYSTEM

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MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION SYSTEM (MACS)

A Multi-Agency Coordination system (MACS) is a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications integrated into a common system with responsibility for coordination of assisting agency resources and support to agency emergency operations.

MACS FUNCTIONS

- a) Evaluate new incidents.
- b) Prioritize incidents.
 - Life threatening situation
 - Real property threatened
 - High damage potential
 - Incident complexity
- c) Ensure agency resource situation status is current.
- d) Determine specific agency resource requirements.
- e) Determine agency resources availability (available for out-of-jurisdiction assignment at this time).
- f) Determine need and designate regional mobilization.
- g) Allocate resources to incidents based on priorities.
- h) Anticipate future agency/regional resource needs.
- i) Communicate MACS “decisions” back to agencies/incidents.
- j) Review policies/agreements for regional resource allocations.
- k) Review need for other agencies involvement in MACS.
- l) Provide necessary liaison with out-of-region facilities and agencies as appropriate.

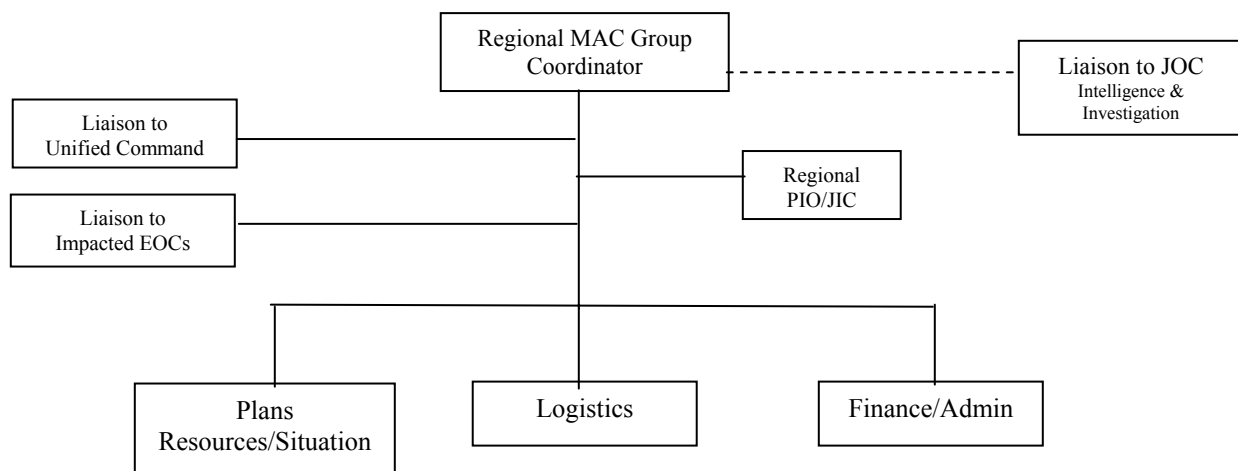
Intent and Purpose

The Regional MAC Group provides a coordination element for the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to perform the following minimum functions:

- ACTIVATE and Operate in support of the incident,
- ASSESS the situational impact and need for resources,
- REPORT situational awareness to the SEOC,
- COORDINATE the regional support, and
- DEPLOY regional assets to augment local resources in coordination with local EOCs.

The MAC Group, in conjunction with local emergency managers, will evaluate available resources in the affected area and coordinate the request and deployment of in-region assets. If the event exceeds the resources available at the regional level, the MAC Group shall coordinate requests for additional out-of-region resources with the local EOC and the State EOC. The MAC Group is not designed to replace tactical Incident Command or function as an Incident Management Team (IMT).

Regional Multi-Agency Coordination Group



CHECKLISTS

MAC GROUP COORDINATOR: The MAC Group Coordinator serves as a facilitator in organizing and accomplishing the mission, goals and direction of the MAC Group.

The Coordinator will:

- a. Facilitate the MAC Group decision process by obtaining, developing and displaying situation information.
- b. Fill and supervise necessary unit and support positions within the MAC Group.
- c. Acquire and manage facilities and equipment necessary to carry out the MAC Group functions.
- d. Implement the decisions made by the MAC Group.

MAC GROUP AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES: The MAC Group is made up of top management personnel from responsible agencies/jurisdictions and those that heavily support the effort and/or are significantly impacted by use of local resources.

MACS Agency Representatives involved in a MAC Group must be fully authorized to represent their agency. Their functions can include the following:

- a) Ensure that current situation and resource status is provided by their agency.
- b) Prioritize incidents by an agreed upon set of criteria.
- c) Designate area or regional mobilization and demobilization centers within their jurisdictions, as needed.
- d) Determine specific resource requirements by agency.
- e) Determine resource availability for out-of-jurisdiction assignments and the need to provide resources in Mobilization Centers.

- f) Collectively allocate scarce, limited resources to incidents based on priorities.
- g) Anticipate and identify future resource needs.
- h) Review and coordinate policies, procedures and agreements as necessary.
- i) Consider legal/fiscal implications.
- j) Review need for participation by other agencies.
- k) Provide liaison with out-of-the-area facilities and agencies as appropriate.
- l) Critique and recommend improvements to MACS and MAC Group operations.
- m) Provide personnel cadre and transition to emergency or disaster recovery as necessary.

SITUATION ASSESSMENT UNIT: The Situation Assessment Unit (This is also referred to in some agencies and EOC's as the Intelligence Unit) in a MACS is responsible for the collection and organization of incident status and situation information. They unit will evaluate, analyze and display all information for use by the MAC Group. Functions include the following:

- a. Maintain incident situation status including location, type, size, potential for damage, control problems and any other significant information.
- b. Maintain information on environmental issues, cultural and historic resources or sensitive populations and areas.
- c. Maintain information on meteorological conditions and forecast conditions that may have an effect on incident operations.
- d. Request/obtain resource status information from the Resources Unit or agency dispatch sources.
- e. Combine, summarize and display data for all appropriate incidents according to established criteria.
- f. Collect information on accidents, injuries, deaths and any other significant occurrences.
- g. Develop projections of future incident activity.

RESOURCES UNIT: The Resources Unit, if activated in a MACS, maintains summary information by agency on critical equipment and personnel committed and available within the MACS area of responsibility. Status is kept on the overall numbers of critical resources rather than on individual units.

Functions can include the following:

- a. Maintain current information on the numbers of personnel and major items of equipment committed and/or available for assignment.
- b. Identify both essential and excess resources.
- c. Provide resource summary information to the Situation Assessment Unit as requested.

INFORMATION UNIT: The Information Unit is designed to satisfy the need for regional information gathering. The unit will operate a joint information center, JIC, to serve the print and broadcast media and other governmental agencies. It will provide summary information from agency/incident information officers and identify local agency sources for additional information to the media and other government agencies. Functions are to:

- a. Prepare and release summary information to the news media and participating agencies.
- b. Assist news media visiting the MACS facility and provide information on its function. Joint agency involvement, will be stressed.
- c. Assist in scheduling media conferences and briefings. Assist in preparing information materials, etc., when requested by the MAC Group Coordinator.
- d. Coordinate all matters related to public affairs (VIP tours, etc.).
- e. Act as escort for facilitated agency tours of incident areas, as appropriate.

MAC GROUPS FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

As an example of a utilization of the MAC System concept, a Regional Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) System for domestic preparedness is comprised of the Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) discipline leadership, usually consisting of the task force co-chairs representing the Law Enforcement, Fire Rescue, Emergency Management, and Health/Medical disciplines. The MAC Group or their designees will be organized in an Incident Command System (ICS) structure consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and will coordinate with the local Emergency Operations Center(s) (EOCs) to provide support to the local area incident commander(s). MAC Group members will include RDSTF partners who are not responding to or directly impacted by the incident. The MAC Group may locate at an independent location or within an EOC in consultation with local emergency management. The MAC Group Coordinator will be the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Special Agent in Charge (SAC) or designee. The MAC Group will be identified by the RDSTF region number (i.e., Region 3 MAC Group).